

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04980 010413Z

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 OES-07

/086 W

-----025158 010417Z /17

R 010220Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8292

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4980

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, MY

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR

1. ON JULY 27, R. SAMPATKUMAR, UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EASTERN SOUTH ASIA CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN MALAYSIA. SAMPATKUMAR BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY ASKING WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR HAD ANY FURTHER NEWS REGARDING THE 15,000 ADDITIONAL NUMBERS FOR REFUGEES WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS AUTHORIZED. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE HAD RECEIVED NO GUIDANCE AS YET ON THE LATTER AND THAT CONGRESS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE CONSULTED. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT GUIDANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. IN THE COURSE OF A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE REFUGEE SITUATION, THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED TO SAMPATKUMAR ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN HAD RECENTLY ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR, AND THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAD RECENTLY ASSURED SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON THAT MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH REFUGEES IN A HUMANITARIAN MANNER. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD INFORMED MAHATHIR OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 04980 010413Z

PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMISSION OF 15,000 ADDITIONAL INDOCHINA REFUGEES. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT HE INTENDED TO QUIETLY REMIND THE GOM OF THESE HIGH-LEVEL ASSURANCES AS NECESSARY.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ABLE TO SHOW THE MALAYSIAN

GOVERNMENT THAT REFUGEES ARE IN FACT BEING RESETTLED ELSEWHERE. THE FACT THAT NEARLY 120 REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED MALAYSIA THIS MONTH (WITH ANOTHER 60 SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BY AUGUST 8 TO THE U.S. ALONE SHOULD INDICATE TO THE GOM THAT THE REFUGEES ARE IN FACT CONTINUING TO BE RESETTLED. SAMPAKUMAR AGREED, AND SAID HE HOPED AUTHORITY ON THE 15,000 ADDITIONAL REFUGEES WOULD ARRIVE IN TIME TO PREVENT ANY STOPPAGE IN THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES OUT OF MALAYSIA.

EARLIER THE SAME DAY SAMPAKUMAR HAD DISCUSSED WITH AN EXXON OFFICIAL THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS POSED BY REFUGEES LANDING ON EXXON DRILLING PLATFORMS OF THE EAST COAST. SAMPAKUMAR AGREED TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE MFA. EXXON AGREED TO EXPLORE THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH PETRONAS (THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION).

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT SAMPAKUMAR ASKED TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR REGARDING THE 15,000 ADDITIONAL REFUGEE NUMBERS IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE INTENSE INTEREST HERE OVER WHAT THE NEW PROGRAM MIGHT MEAN. ANY EARLY INDICATION OF THE STATUS OF THIS PROGRAM WILL BE MOST USEFUL IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS HERE.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Remarks:
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